THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. However, withdrawal of stoppages based on patronisation is a continuous process.

((b) Figures for the last two years are not readily available. However, during January 1990-July 1991, about 430 additional stoppages were provided to mail/express trains.

(c) Punctuality of long distance trains is monitored at different levels and action to eliminate causes affecting punctuality taken.

Study to find out the causes of volcanic eruption in Andamans and Nicobar Islands

865. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out the causes of the recent volcanic eruption in Andamans and the contents of the lava and gases vailable there; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India which is studying the volcanic eruption is of the view that the present volcanic eruption of Barren Island in Andaman and Nicobar Island is due to existence of volcanic belts with deep seated tectonic causes. Lava and ashes from the recent eruption hav been studied and the erupted rocks have been identified as basaltic andesite.

Deaths due to flooding of Mahanti-Patna tunnel in Orissa

867. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of LABOU be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at leas 30 labourers working inside Mahanti-Patna tunnel of Upper Indravati Project in Orissa were washed away as Indravati water flooded the tunnel;

(b) if so, what were the causes thereof; and

(c) the number of lives lost and compensation paid to the families o the victims?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) According to information availabl 16 employes of the contractor are reported to have been trapped inside the tunnel of Uppar Indravati Hydel Project when it was flooded on 29th July, 1991 due to breach in Coffer Dam (Ring bund) at the head of the tunnel. Fourteen bodies have been recovered so far. The State Government has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25,000/- each to the bereaved family of the dead workers from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., pending the usual compensation admissible under the Rules, has also announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 3,000 as an immediate relief to the next of kin of deceased workers. Assisant Labour Commissioner, Jaspore has also awrded provisional compensation to the tune of Rs. 10.72 lakhs. It has also been decided by the State Government to rehabilitate one member from each of the family of deceased.